

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2004, Claims 1-3, 7-9, and 13-15 were rejected, and Claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 were objected to. Claims 1, 5, 7, and 13 are amended. Claims 4, 12, and 16 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 19-22 are new and contain no new matter. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-15, and 17-22 are now pending in the application. In view of the remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and submits that all pending claims are in a condition for allowance.

The Examiner states that Claims 4-6, 10-12, and 16-18 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent Claim 1 is amended to include the limitations recited in Claim 4. Independent Claim 7 is amended to include the limitations recited in Claim 12. Independent Claim 13 is amended to include the limitations recited in Claim 16. Independent Claim 19 is added which includes the limitations recited in base Claim 13 (prior to this amendment) and the limitations recited in Claim 18. Accordingly, Claims 1, 7, 13, and 19 are in a condition for allowance.

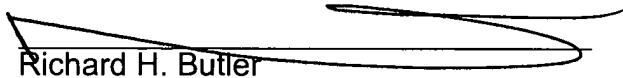
Further, Claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are also in a condition for allowance because they depend on allowable independent Claim 1. Further, Claims 8-11 are also in a condition for allowance because they depend on allowable independent Claim 7. Further, Claims 14, 15, 17, and 18 are also in a condition for allowance because they depend on allowable independent Claim 13. Further, Claims 20-22 are also in a condition for allowance because they depend on allowable independent Claim 19.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Richard H. Butler at (408) 223-9763.

Respectfully submitted,

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